

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FRB-03 CIEP-03 OMB-01 AID-20

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 EA-11 DRC-01 /198 W

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R 301245Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7326

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, MO

SUBJ: MALAWI ENDORSES TRANSFER OF POWER TO FRELIMO

IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: BLANTYRE 1019

1. MALAWI GOVT CONTROLLED DAILY TIMES ON AUGUST 20 RAN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "PORTUGAL'S DELAY" IN WHICH AGAIN AS IN RECENT WEEKS PORTUGAL IS BRANDED DILATORY IN GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO MOZAMBIQUE (OF REFTEL). "DEADLOCK" IN NEGOTIATIONS IS AGAIN ATTRIBUTED TO UNWILLINGNESS OF CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN LISBON AND LOURENCO MARQUES TO ACCEPT AFRICAN NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT.

2. EDITORIAL IS HIGHLIGHTED BY FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: QTE
AS FOR MOZAMBIQUE, IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT FRELIMO COMMANDS SUCH
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A LARGE FOLLOWING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR THIS

ORGANIZATION TO RUN THE POLITICAL SHOW AT ONCE. NO TRANSITION IS NECESSARY. (AND) TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND THE FAILURE OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO ARRANGE A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO FRELIMO WILL SIMPLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, FOR IT IS ONLY FRELIMO THAT CAN STOP THE WAR AND ALLOW PORTUGAL TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM MOZAMBIQUE. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF VIEW THAT POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED EXCLUSIVELY TO FRELIMO. HERETOFORE PRESIDENT BANDA AND GOM EDITORIALISTS HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE EVEN-HANDED IN DISCUSSING MOZAMBIQUE, REFERRING TO MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION GROUPINGS GENERALLY AS "NATIONALISTS" AND USUALLY REFERRING ALSO TO COREMO AND EVEN SUCH POWERLESS GROUPS AS UNAMO WHEN MENTIONING FRELIMO. BANDA PREVIOUSLY HAS MET WITH NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SPLINTER GROUPINGS MANEUVERING FOR POSITION IN MOZAMBIQUE. CURRENT ADJUSTMENT IN MALAWI POSITION INDICATES BANDA HAS FINALLY ACCEPTED THAT FRELIMO WILL PLAY PREDOMINANT ROLE IN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE. THAT ACCEPTANCE HAS BEEN AS LATE (AND POSSIBLY EVEN AS GRUDGING) AS IT IS, REFLECTS BANDA'S DISTRUST OF FRELIMO ELEMENTS PRESUMED TO BE HOSTILE TO BANDA'S REGIME, PRINCIPALLY THOSE FRELIMO MOST CLOSELY SUPPORTED BY SOVIETS AND CHICOMS. HOWEVER ACCEPTANCE IS IN LINE WITH BANDA'S FAMED PRAGMATISM, AS HE INEVITABLY RECOGNIZES THAT MALAWI ULTIMATELY WILL DEPEND ON FRELIMO GOOD WILL FOR ACCESS TO VITAL NACALA-BEIRA LIFELINES.

4. AS LAST NOTE, FOR ONCE JARDIM NOT MENTIONED IN CONNECTION MOZAMBIQUE'S FUTURE.
STEVENSON

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